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Letter dated 7 February 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 27 January 2014 from Léonie Banga-Bothy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Central Africans Abroad of the Central African Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: French]

I should like to reiterate my deep appreciation for your efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the Central African Republic.

The African forces of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic have done remarkable work with the support of French forces, in the context of Operation Sangaris. Those forces will soon be joined by the European Union military operation in the Central African Republic. Such resolute action has avoided a descent into a catastrophic situation. Day by day, it is making an essential contribution to the stabilization of the Central African Republic.

However, although the situation in Bangui is becoming more stable, the security challenge outside the capital remains pressing. There is a need for greater troop numbers, including police and gendarmerie, in addition to sufficient and sustainable financial and logistical support for their deployment.

The process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former combatants is crucial for a successful transition and must be promptly addressed.

Over and above security issues, a huge political challenge lies ahead in order swiftly to establish a civilian State, prepare elections, rebuild the State and put the administration back on track, including police, gendarmerie, customs, the justice system and social services.

Only a United Nations peacekeeping mission can address all of those needs within a context of integrated action.

I should therefore like to request the deployment of a United Nations operation in the Central African Republic with a view to stabilizing all of the national territory and responding to urgent civilian needs.

The future United Nations operation should have a robust mandate and should ideally be deployed and operational by the summer.

Allow me once again to express my gratitude for your valuable contribution to the stability of my country.

(*Signed*) Léonie **Banga-Bothy**